THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): Names of towns/Cities in Maharashtra which are likely to be connected on STD network are given below. Bombay is already on STD network.

Alibagh, Dhule, Gadchiroli; Jalna; Kudal, Latur, Nanded and Osmanabad.

Survey for Oil Exploration by USSR

1949. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 596 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th February, 1988 and state:

(a) whether Soviet assistance has been sought to carry out survey of oil deposits in the area of Cambay basin and Himalayan region and whether a Russian Professor Aleaounder Yamshim, an expert in Geophysical Sciences has given any opinion in this regard; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the assistance and the details of the opinion given by Prof. Yamshim in this regard and what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) Soviet assistance has been obtained under bilateral arrangements for exploration of hydrocarbons in the on-shore areas, including Himalayan region and Cambay Basin, of the country.

The Russian Prof. A. L. Yamshin had carried out a detailed study on the geo-tectonics of Eurasia. The megastructures depicted by him in his tectonic map has an indirect bearing on hydrocarbon prospect analysis of Himalayan region and Cambay Basin.

The Soviet side has rendered technical assistance in the analysis of available geological and geo-physical data of Himalayan foot-hill belt and drilling of Cheri Well No. 1 in Himachal Pradesh.

In the Cambay Basin, an intensive integrated exploration project has been undertaken with Soviet assistance as per work programme given below:—

Seismic Survey (GLK)	3100
No. of Wells	26
Total meterage	54000

Consumption of Petrol

1950. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of consumption of petrol has been on the increase for the past five years despite Government's policy to reduce it;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the expected quantity of annual import for petroleum products for the coming five years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Although measures for conservation in the use of petroleum products, including petrol continue to be undertaken, the rate of growth in demand for motor spirit has had a generally increasing trend in the last five years.

(b) The main reason for increase in consumption of petrol has been the gradual increase in the population of petrol driven vehicles in the country.

(c) The import requirements of petroleum products is assessed every